

Cary House
184 Delaware Avenue
Buffalo
Erie County
New York

HABS No. NY-5613
HABS
NY,
15-BUF,
1-

PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20240

CARY HOUSE

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Location: 184 Delaware Avenue, northwest corner of Delaware Avenue and West Huron Street, Buffalo, Erie County, New York

Statement of Significance: This large, 2-1/2-story French Second-Empire brick house with Gothic details was located at the southern residential end of Delaware Avenue--a broad, tree-lined street with large prestigious homes of Buffalo's wealthy citizens. The house was irregular in plan, had projecting bays with wooden detailing, a mansard roof with pointed-arch dormer windows, and exterior window label moldings--all accented by a three-story octagonal entrance tower topped by an octagonal cupola with crenelated wooden parapet.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Date of erection: 1851.
2. Architect: Not known.
3. Original and subsequent owners: The house was built by Dr. Walter Cary and his wife, Julia Love Cary, in 1851. From 1851 to 1964, the house was owned by the Cary family. On April 15, 1964, the property was sold to the United States Government. A General Services Administration Building has been erected on the site.
4. Builder: Not known.
5. Original plans: None known.
6. Alterations and additions: The structure burned on July 10, 1965. Until the building was vacated in May 1965 to make way for demolition, it was occupied for several years by the Normandy Restaurant. It is known that ceilings were lowered and other modifications made to adapt the residence to restaurant use. Demolished, 1966.

B. Historical Events and Persons Connected with the Structure:

The son of the original owner was George Cary (d. 1945), a prominent Buffalo architect. The first Buffalo General Hospital Building, the State University of New York at Buffalo Medical School, and the Historical Society Museum

are a few of the buildings designed by Cary. At the time of the fire in 1965, family records were stored in the basement of the house. Family documents, correspondence, and architectural plans were salvaged and are now in the collection of the Buffalo and Erie County Historical Society.

C. Sources of Information:

1. Old views: Photographs do exist in the Iconographic Collection of the Buffalo and Erie County Historical Society.
2. Secondary and published sources: Buffalo Evening News, July 10, 1965.
3. Likely sources not yet investigated:

Records of Deeds in the Buffalo City Clerk's office.

Cary Collection of documents, Buffalo and Erie County Historical Society.

PART II. PROJECT INFORMATION

This photo-data book was prepared as part of a 1964-65 recording project in cooperation with the Buffalo-Western New York Chapter of AIA, Olaf William Shelgren (at that time Chairman of the Chapter's Preservation Committee), and Olaf William Shelgren, Jr.--both, of the firm Shelgren, Patterson and Marzec. Photographs were taken in May 1965 by Jack E. Boucher, HABS staff photographer. Under the direction of John C. Poppeliers, Chief, HABS, an editorial project was undertaken by Susan R. Slade, architectural historian, in September 1973.